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A. AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a first tubing and a second tubing;

a plug ~~assembly~~ fixedly engaged to a first tubing proximate end and having a plurality of ~~first~~ splines and a plurality of first ~~connectors~~conduits;

a socket ~~assembly~~ fixedly engaged to a second tubing distal end and having a plurality of receptacles and a plurality of second ~~connectors~~conduits;

a securing device for securing the plug ~~assembly~~ to the socket ~~assembly~~;

wherein the plug ~~assembly~~ may be joined to the socket ~~assembly~~ by the securing device in a plurality of orientations ~~where~~ so that, in each of the plurality of orientations, when the plurality of splines in the plug ~~assembly~~ mate with the plurality of receptacles in the socket ~~assembly~~, the plurality of first ~~connectors~~ conduits automatically ~~engage~~ align with the plurality of second ~~connectors~~conduits; and

wherein the plug, the plurality of splines and the plurality of first conduits are of unitary construction; and

wherein the socket, the plurality of receptacles and the plurality of second conduits are of unitary construction.

2. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of splines further comprises a center spline and a plurality of outer splines of equal dimensions, the outer

splines sharing a common longitudinal axis with the center spline and having symmetry about the common longitudinal axis~~, and where N is equal to the number of outer splines~~.

3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the securing device is a coupling collar adapted for connecting ~~it to~~ the plug ~~assembly~~ and the socket ~~assembly~~, the coupling collar initially engaged with the plug ~~assembly~~.

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plug ~~assembly~~ further comprises a plurality of fine threads.

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the socket ~~assembly~~ further comprises a plurality of coarse threads.

6. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the plurality of coarse threads of the socket ~~assembly~~ are tapered.

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ~~two tubing sections~~first tubing section and the second tubing section are connectable in two distinct orientations.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ~~two tubing sections~~ first tubing section and the second tubing section are connectable in three distinct orientations.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ~~two tubing sections~~ first tubing section and the second tubing section are connectable in four or more distinct orientations.

10. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, ~~further comprising at least one conduit containing~~wherein the plurality of first conduits and the plurality of second conduits are adapted to receive a wire ~~adapted to carry an~~ capable of carrying an electrical current.

11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, ~~further comprising at least one conduit containing~~wherein the plurality of first conduits and the plurality of second conduits are adapted to receive a material capable of carrying ~~adapted to carry~~ an optical signal.

12. Canceled.

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the ~~tubing sections~~ first tubing section and the second tubing section are pipe.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the ~~tubing sections~~first tubing section and the second tubing section are casing.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the ~~tubing sections~~first tubing section and the second tubing section are used to produce hydrocarbons from a well bore.

16. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the ~~tubing sections~~first tubing section and the second tubing section are used to produce water from a well bore.

17. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the ~~tubing sections~~first tubing section and the second tubing section are connectable in a plurality of distinct orientations.

18. (Currently amended) An apparatus for providing power to a subterranean environment, comprising:

a drilling assembly containing a plurality of tubing sections;

a plurality of tubing joints for connecting the plurality of tubing sections together, each tubing joint comprising:

a plug ~~assembly~~ having a plurality of splines and a plurality of first conduits;

a socket ~~assembly~~ having a plurality of receptacles and a plurality of second conduits, the plurality of receptacles adapted to receive the plurality of splines ~~of the plug assembly~~;

~~a plurality of transmission means running the length of the apparatus;~~

a securing device for securing the plug ~~assembly of one tubing section~~ to the socket ~~assembly of another tubing section~~; ~~and~~

wherein the plug ~~assembly of one tubing section~~ and the socket ~~assembly of another tubing section~~ may be joined in N orientations where N is equal to the number of splines; and

wherein ~~the~~ a plurality of transmission means are automatically aligned for connectivity when the plurality of splines ~~on one tubing joint~~ are inserted into the plurality of receptacles ~~on another tubing joint~~ and are adapted for passage through the plurality of first conduits and the plurality of second conduits;

wherein the plug, the plurality of splines and the plurality of first conduits are of unitary construction; and

wherein the socket, the plurality of receptacles and the plurality of second conduits are of unitary construction.

19. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the plurality of splines further ~~comprises~~ comprise a center spline and a plurality of outer splines of equal dimensions, the outer splines sharing a common longitudinal axis with the center spline and having symmetry about the common longitudinal axis~~, and wherein N is equal to the number of outer splines~~.

20. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the securing device is a coupling collar adapted for connection to the plug ~~assembly~~ and the socket ~~assembly~~, the coupling collar initially engaged with the plug ~~assembly~~.

21. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the plug ~~assembly~~ further comprises a plurality of fine threads.

22. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the socket ~~assembly~~ further comprises a plurality of coarse threads.

23. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the coarse threads of the socket ~~assembly~~ are tapered.

24. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the ~~two tubing sections~~ first tubing section and the second tubing section are connectable in two distinct orientations.

25. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the ~~two tubing sections~~first tubing section and the second tubing section are connectable in three distinct orientations.

26. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the ~~two tubing sections~~first tubing section and the second tubing section are connectable in four or more distinct orientations.

27. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 19, ~~further comprising at least one~~ wherein the plurality of first conduits and the plurality of second conduits are adapted to receive ~~conduit containing~~ a wire ~~adapted to carry an~~ capable of carrying an electrical current.

28. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 19, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the plurality of transmission means each comprise ~~at least one conduit containing~~ a material adapted to carry an optical signal.

29. Canceled.

30. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the ~~tubing sections~~first tubing section and the second tubing section are pipe.

31. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the first tubing section and the second tubing section ~~tubing sections~~ are casing.

32. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the first tubing section and the second tubing section ~~tubing sections~~ are used to produce hydrocarbons from a well bore.

33. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the first tubing section and the second tubing section ~~tubing sections~~ are used to produce water from a well bore.

34. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the first tubing section and the second tubing section ~~tubing sections~~ are connectable in a plurality of orientations.

35. (Currently amended) A method of using a tubing joint to join two tubing sections together, comprising:

using a first tubing section having a plurality of first ~~connectors~~conduits and a proximate end having a plug ~~assembly~~ attached and using a second tubing section having a plurality of second ~~connectors~~ conduits and a distal end having a socket ~~assembly~~ attached~~, positioning the first tubing section coaxially with the second tubing section~~;

aligning the first tubing section coaxially with the second tubing section;

engaging the plug ~~assembly~~ of the first tubing section ~~into~~with the socket ~~assembly~~ of the second tubing section ~~so that~~whereby the plurality of first ~~connectors~~conduits align with ~~engage~~ the plurality of second ~~connectors~~conduits; and

securing the first tubing section to the second tubing section;

wherein, when a plurality of splines on the plug mate with a plurality of receptacles in the socket, the plurality of first conduits are aligned with the plurality of second conduits;

wherein the plug, the plurality of splines and the plurality of first conduits are of unitary construction; and

wherein the socket, the plurality of receptacles and the plurality of second conduits are of unitary construction.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35 wherein the positioning step further comprises: positioning the first tubing section coaxially with the second tubing section such that the proximate end of the first tubing section is in close proximity with the distal end of the second tubing section.

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein the positioning step further comprises:

~~aligning the first tubing section with the second tubing section by~~ rotating ~~one or both tubing sections~~the first tubing section in relation to the second tubing section such that ~~the~~ a plurality of ~~plug assembly outer~~ splines ~~of the first tubing section~~ are positioned to properly mate with the plurality of ~~receptacle~~receptacles~~in the socket assembly of the second tubing section~~.

38. (Original) The method of claim 35 wherein the first tubing section is vertically above the second tubing section.

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein ~~a pair of~~ a plurality of ~~electrical~~first connectors in the plurality of first conduits and a plurality of second connectors in the plurality of second conduits are electrically coupled ~~when~~by inserting the plug ~~assembly of the first tubing section is inserted~~ into the socket ~~assembly of the second tubing section~~.

40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein a pair of optical connectors are optically coupled ~~when~~ by inserting the plug ~~assembly of the first tubing section is inserted~~ into the socket ~~assembly of the second tubing section~~.

41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein ~~the~~a coupling collar ~~of the first tubing section~~ is used to secure the first tubing section to the second tubing section.

42. Canceled.

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein the ~~tubing sections~~ first tubing section and the second tubing section are pipe.

44. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein the ~~tubing sections~~ first tubing section and the second tubing section are casing.

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein the ~~tubing sections~~first tubing section and the second tubing section are used to produce hydrocarbons from a well bore.

46. Currently amended The method of claim 35 wherein the ~~tubing sections~~ first tubing section and the second tubing section are used to produce water from a well bore.

47. (Currently amended) In a drill string of the type comprising a plurality of drill pipe sections arranged in end to end relation from a location above the ground to a lower location adjacent to an orientable tool connected to a bottom end of the drill string, and wherein the adjacent ends of the drill pipe sections are connected to each other to form a plurality of spaced pipe joints extending downwardly from the ground to the tool, ~~the~~an improvement ~~which comprises manufacturing the~~comprising:

a drill string ~~that is~~ in alignment from ~~the~~ a top end to the bottom end thereof; ~~and~~

wherein each pipe section is provided with a lower end having a plurality of splines and an upper end having a plurality of receptacles which ~~is~~are in alignment with and ~~corresponds~~correspond with the plurality of splines on the lower end of the same pipe section; ~~and~~ wherein each pipe joint comprises an upper drill pipe section having its splines received in the corresponding receptacles in the next adjacent lower drill pipe section; ~~and~~

wherein the splines and the recesses can fit together in more than one orientation;

_____wherein the adjacent ends of the sections are threaded and wherein an internally threaded collar is received over the threaded ends to hold the drill pipe sections of each pipe joint securely together; and

_____wherein a plurality of conduits are aligned for connectivity when the splines of the upper drill pipe section are received in the corresponding receptacles in the next adjacent lower drill pipe section.

48. (Original) A drill pipe joint as set forth in claim 47 wherein the upper drill pipe section and lower drill pipe section are provided with keyways which are symmetrically related with respect to the longitudinal axis of the drill string and wherein keys are affixed to the keyways of the upper drill section and are adapted to fit into the keyways of the lower drill pipe section.

49. (Original) A drill pipe joint as set forth in claim 47 wherein the upper drill pipe section is provided with at least three downwardly extending legs which are symmetrically arranged with respect to the longitudinal axis of the drill string and wherein the lower drill pipe section is provided with a corresponding number of recesses arranged so as to receive the legs of the upper drill pipe section.

50. (Currently amended) An apparatus for connecting a plurality of casing sections together comprising:

a first casing section;

a second casing section removably connected to the first casing section; and

wherein the first casing section and the second casing section are connectable in a plurality of distinct orientations;

wherein a first plurality of transmission means are adapted for location within the first casing section and a second plurality of transmission means are adapted for location within the second casing section; and

wherein in each of the plurality of distinct orientations, the first plurality of transmission means are aligned for connectivity with the second plurality of transmission means by ~~means of a~~ mating ~~of~~ a plurality of splines and a corresponding plurality of receptacles.

51. Canceled.

52. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the connection between the first casing section and the second casing section comprises:

a plug ~~assembly having a plurality of splines~~ affixed to the first casing section;

a socket ~~assembly having a plurality of receptacles adapted to receive the plurality of splines of the plug assembly, the socket assembly being~~ affixed to the second casing section; and

a securing device for securing the plug assembly to the socket assembly;

wherein the plug, the plurality of splines and a plurality of first conduits are of unitary construction, and the socket, the plurality of receptacles and a plurality of second conduits are of unitary construction.

53. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 52, wherein the securing device is a coupling collar adapted for connection to the plug ~~assembly~~ and the socket ~~assembly~~, the coupling collar initially engaged with the plug ~~assembl~~y.

54. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the plug ~~assembly~~ further comprises a plurality of fine threads.

55. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the socket assembly further comprises a plurality of coarse threads.

56. (Original) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein ~~the~~ the coarse threads of the socket assembly are tapered.

57. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 52, wherein the ~~two tubing sections~~first tubing section and the second tubing section are connectable in two distinct orientations.

58. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 52, wherein the ~~two tubing sections~~ first tubing section and the second tubing section are connectable in three distinct orientations.

59. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 52, wherein the ~~two tubing sections~~ first tubing section and the second tubing section are connectable in four or more distinct orientations.

60. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 52, ~~further comprising~~wherein the plurality of first transmission means and the plurality of second transmission means each comprise ~~at least one conduit containing~~ a plurality of ~~wire~~ wires adapted to carry an electrical current.

61. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 52, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the plurality of first transmission means and the plurality of second transmission means each comprise ~~at least one conduit containing~~ a material adapted to carry an optical signal.

62. Canceled

63. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 52 wherein the ~~tubing sections~~ first tubing section and the second tubing section are pipe.

64. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 52 wherein the ~~tubing sections~~ first tubing section and the second tubing section are casing.

65. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 52 wherein the ~~tubing sections~~first tubing section and the second tubing section are used to produce hydrocarbons from a well bore.

66. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 52 wherein the ~~tubing sections~~first tubing sectin and the second tubing section are used to produce water from a well bore.